

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
14 May 1968

MEMORANDUM

Recent North Vietnamese Activities
Between the 19th and 20th Parallels

1. There are a number of indicators that the North Vietnamese are taking full advantage of the restriction of the US bombing program to areas south of the 19th parallel. These include a sharp increase in logistics activities, an apparent build-up of storage areas near Thanh Hoa, the deployment of naval patrol craft to the area and

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Logistics Activities

2. [redacted] shows a continued high level of transshipment and other logistic activity in the Thanh Hoa area including an increased use of open storage areas.

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Lines of Communication

3. The only unusual occurrence on rail lines was noted at Tu My on 21 April, where some dispersed rail repair activity was taking place. NVN has received some mobile rail repair units from its Communist allies and some may be in use in this area. Since the first of May only one significant item has been recorded concerning highway activity in the area between 19° and 20°. During the night of 6 May, a pilot on an armed reconnaissance mission sighted in excess of 50 trucks just north of the 19th parallel on Route 1A moving south under clear skies with their lights on. Approximately 1½ hours later another pilot observed an equally large number of trucks -- possibly the same convoy -- in the same general area.

Possible Movement of Patrol Craft

4. North Vietnamese motor torpedo boats may have resumed activity in the Thanh Hoa - Hon Me Island area for the first time since July 1967, when US Navy aircraft sank two PT boats off Thanh Hoa.

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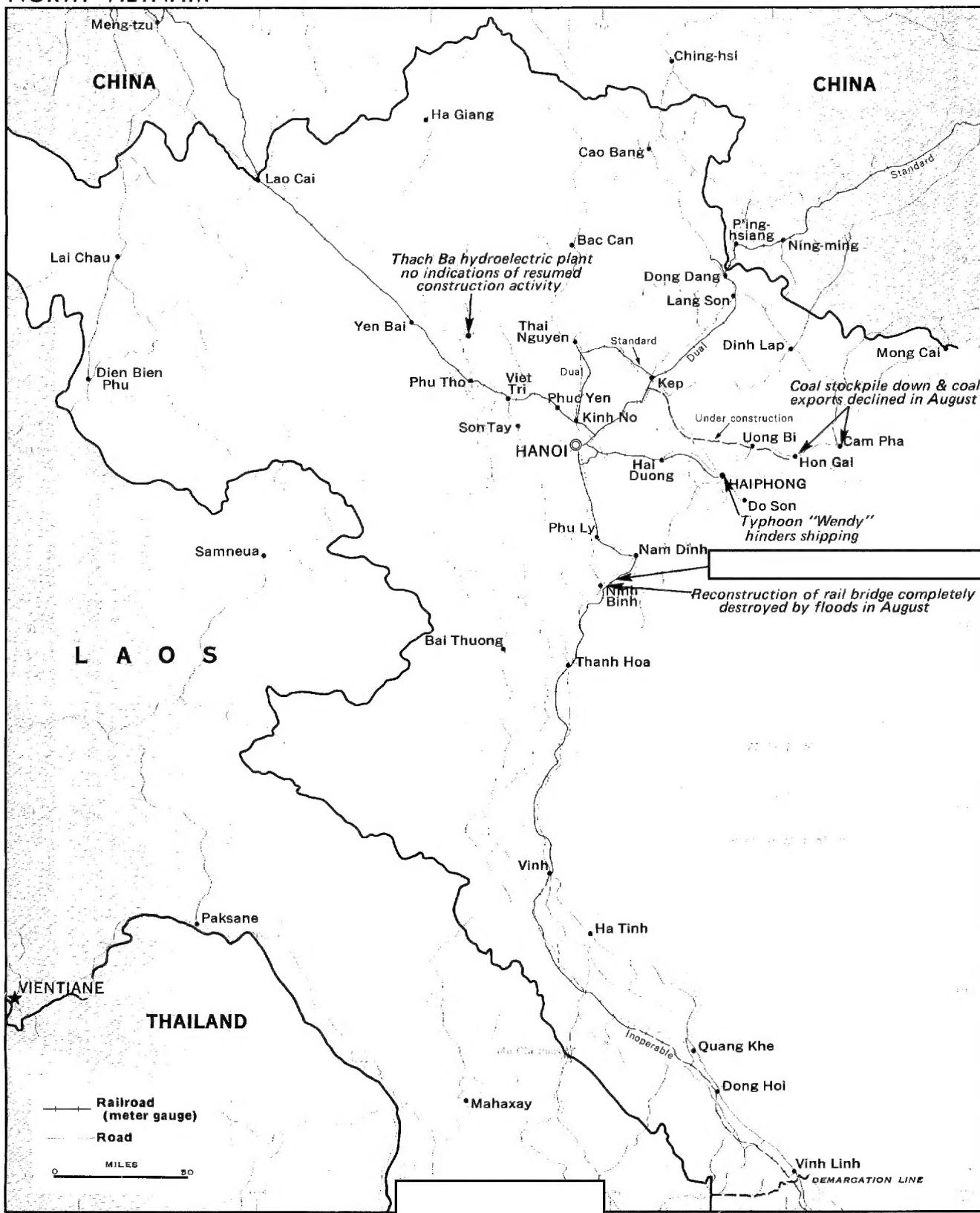
5. Since early May, the North Vietnamese have conducted several MIG fighter-interceptor operations south of the 20th parallel with the apparent intention of engaging US strike aircraft over North Vietnam's panhandle region. A US F-4 aircraft was downed by MIG's in the Vinh area on 7 May.

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